



## TITLE INFORMATION

### **DEADLY DIVERSIONS**

Graham McLeod  
Global Summit House (400 pp.)  
\$18.99 paperback  
ISBN: 9781647133931  
December 9, 2019

## BOOK REVIEW

In McLeod's mystery novel, the mysterious deaths of airline pilots suggest a wide-ranging conspiracy.

After several airline captains die in various European cities under circumstances ruled accidental, unease spreads through the International Pilots Federation. Don Carling—a former pilot turned investigator—is brought in to retrace their final days and determine whether the verdicts hold. His search moves through hotels, crew lounges, and city streets, uncovering small inconsistencies that begin to align. Carling follows threads that link professional routines with private lives, uncovering altered schedules, unexplained financial matters, and relationships that don't quite add up. A woman seen with more than one victim becomes a key piece of the puzzle, as do the inner workings of airline operations like cargo runs, last-minute flight changes, and predictable layover habits. These details form the backbone of the mystery, suggesting that the very systems meant to ensure safety can be studied and turned against those who rely on them. As one character puts it, "another captain has been found dead...there's no bloody way this could be construed as an accident." What begins as a measured investigation expands outward, drawing in international agencies and figures from organized crime. The sense of scale grows without abandoning the grounded, procedural feel of the early chapters—by the time attention turns to a specific flight that may carry the next victim, the tension has tightened considerably, and careful deduction gives way to a race against time. Carling remains matter-of-fact throughout; the narrative is guided more by logic than emotion, taking readers through the methodical unfolding of events. The pacing is deliberate, with the story occasionally lingering on details, but the accumulation of clues gives the unfolding conspiracy weight and plausibility. Early fragments gain new meaning as the narrative advances, rewarding attention and patience. Characterizations are functional, but the steady, pragmatic presence of the investigator provides cohesion. The real strength of the novel lies in its structure: Clues are layered carefully, and the story builds toward a climax that reframes earlier events without betraying them.

A controlled, detail-rich mystery that builds quietly.

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